

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 4, 2004. Claims 1 to 16 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15 and 16 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to. More specifically, Fig. 5 was objected to due to a misspelling of the word "PRIBVATE" in reference numeral 604. A Replacement Sheet for Fig. 5 is being submitted concurrently herewith to correct the misspelling to read "PRIVATE". Approval of the Replacement Sheet for Fig. 5 is respectfully requested.

Figs. 1 to 26 were objected to for not including the legend "PRIOR ART" because, it was asserted, "only that which is old is illustrated". However, Applicant wishes to point out that, while some components depicted in Figs. 1 to 26 may be known in the art, those figures depict, and in fact are described in the specification as depicting, a network and an apparatus in which the present invention may be implemented. Therefore, those figures are included to provide a clear understanding of the present invention, as opposed to merely being provided to describe prior art. Accordingly, applying a "PRIOR ART" legend to Figs. 1 to 26 is believed to be inappropriate since the drawings are necessary for a clear understanding of the invention. Therefore, the objection is traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

The specification was also objected to for informalities that have been attended to by amendment as recited above. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2 to 4, 6, 7, 9 to 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Without conceding the correctness of the rejections, the claims have been amended as deemed appropriate by Applicants so as to make the subject matter

thereof even clearer. Accordingly, withdrawal of the § 112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,991,842 (Takayama), and Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takayama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,643,714 (Chrysanthakopoulos). The rejections are respectfully traversed and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention concerns storing of configuration ROM information in devices that communicate via the IEEE 1394 serial bus. According to one feature of the invention, configuration ROM information complying with the IEEE 1212 standard is stored in a predetermined first address area, and information identical to the configuration ROM information is stored in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area. With this feature, some devices that may have difficulty efficiently performing a block read of the configuration ROM information and therefore, require multiple read operations, can more efficiently read out the configuration ROM information, particularly where the information of the device becomes large.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus comprising an interface arranged to connect to a serial bus compatible to or complying with the IEEE 1394 standard, and a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information identical to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area.

Independent Claims 8 and 15 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Independent Claim 5 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but more is more specifically directed to an information processing apparatus comprising an interface arranged to connect to a serial bus compatible to or complying with the IEEE 1394 standard, and a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information with a minimal format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information corresponding to the configuration ROM information with a general format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area.

Independent Claims 12 and 16 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 5.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information identical to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area (Claims 1, 8 and 15), or at least the feature of a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information with a minimal format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information corresponding to the configuration ROM information with a general format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area (Claims 5, 12 and 16).

Takayama merely discloses a configuration ROM 8 (CR1) and a second configuration ROM 9 (CR2) that both include the same format as shown in Fig. 8.

However, unlike the present invention in which identical configuration ROM information is stored in both the predetermined first address area of the memory and the second address area different from the first address area of the memory, the information stored in each area of the memory in Takayama is different. For instance, the CR1 stores node information for a first protocol used to transmit a moving image signal (sig1) output from a video processing unit 2 (see col. 7, lines 51 to 62), while the CR2 stored node information for a second protocol used to transmit a still image signal (sig2) output from a camera processing unit 3 (see col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 6). Thus, Takayama is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 8 and 15.

It is noted that the Office Action alleges that Takayama's column 10, lines 20 to 23 teaches storing identical configuration ROM information in the two different address areas. However, Applicants fail to understand the position taken in the Office Action since this portion of Takayama discloses changes an address setting so that either the first address configuration ROM or the second configuration ROM (which store the respective different information as described above) can be read. Thus, despite the assertion made in the Office Action, this portion of Takayama fails to teach that the configuration ROM information stored in each respective address area is different, as claimed in Claims 1, 8 and 15.

Turning to Claims 5, 12 and 16, these claims include the feature of a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information with a minimal format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information corresponding to the configuration ROM information with a general format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area. Takayama, on the other hand, as stated above, is

merely seen to disclose that the configuration ROM information in each of the address areas is different and Applicant's fail to see any correspondence between them. More particularly, Applicants fail to see where the information stored in one address corresponds to the information stored in the other address, much less that the information in one address is in a minimal format, while the information in the other address is in the general format. Thus, Takayama is also not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 5, 12 and 16.

Chrysanthakopoulos has been studied but is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Takayama, would have disclosed or suggested the foregoing features of the present invention. More particularly, even if Chrysanthakopoulos could be seen to disclose all that it is cited for in the Office Action (a point which Applicants do not concede), any combination of Takayama and Chrysanthakopoulos is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information identical to the configuration ROM information in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area (Claims 1, 8 and 15), or at least the feature of a memory arranged to store, in a predetermined first address area, configuration ROM information with a minimal format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard, and to store configuration information corresponding to configuration ROM information with a general format complying with the IEEE 1212 standard in a second address area different from the predetermined first address area (Claims 5, 12 and 16).


In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the applied art, each of independent Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 15 and 16, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicants note the Examiner's indication in the Office Action regarding an Information Disclosure Statement relating to the IEEE 1394 specification cited in the subject application and Applicants are submitting herewith an IDS to cite that specification.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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